8

D Bradfords
further reasons
for believing
Mr. Maxwell
not an honest
man.

295

My further reasons for not believing Mr. Maxwell to be an honest man are as follows; to wit, because in April or May eighteen hundred and thirty eight he said to deponent that he could demonstrate from his books a loſs of four pounds of gold, (meaning thereby that the Certificates iſsued by the Treasurer of this Branch Mint for gold bullion on the Aſsayers Reports of the quantity and value of the same, were erroneous, being for four pounds more than the Treasurer had received), and afterwards about the 17th of July 1838, he stated to deponent that his gold account came out exactly right; and from his having expreſsed to deponent, about that time, to wit, in April, May or June 1838, a wish to get Mr. Dubois of Philadelphia, appointed Aſsayer of this Branch Mint, deponent believes that he, Mr. Maxwell was actuated by dishonest motives: Because about the 22nd of January 1839, he, Mr. Maxwell, insisted that the Aſsayer had erroneously reported two bars of gold of the same melt, same number, but differing in weight, as differing twenty four millièmes in fineneſs, and afterwards upon an examination by deponent of the rolled aſsay pieces, the difference was so manifest to the eye, that he, Mr. Maxwell, excused himself by saying that "Mr. Baſset" (one of his workmen) "must have put something in the pot": and from his manner of numbering bars of bullion with the same number, deponent believed it done with the evil design of getting the Aſsayer to commit errors and have him removed. Deponent believes the statement of Dimitry in relation to the Deposits of J. A. Kelly and that Mr Maxwell made the remarks therein contained about situations in the Mint being good and that an Officer in the Mint at Philadelphia from being poor when first appointed had since become worth a hundred thousand dollars and therefore deponent cannot believe Mr Maxwell to be an honest man. Deponent has often heard Mr Maxwell say that his accounts, when acting as Melter and Refiner in the Mint at Philadelphia were made up and paſsed on his own statements, and that he had told the Director that they ought to be checked but that his accounts were paſsed without verification, Mr Maxwell told deponent that when he left Philadelphia there was a deficit in the Melter and Refiners Silver account of about five hundred dollars and an Exceſs of Gold of about the same amount. These communications from Mr Maxwell to deponent caused him, deponent, to examine closely the accounts and settlements between the Treasurer and Melter and Refiner on which deponent iſsued warrants to these Officers, suspecting that these communications were designed to induce deponent to confide implicitly in his statements without verification. Mr Maxwell often represented to deponent from December 1837 to December 1838, that it was important that the Weigher should be very attentive, very early at busineſs in the morning, and very efficient, and often Complained that he had to wait of mornings to get bullion from Mr. Durel and from Mr. Lasere; impreſsing deponent with the idea that it was neceſsary that Bullion should be delivered daily by the Treasurers Clerk, charged with the bullion, which deponent now knows not to be neceſsary, and Deponent believes that these representations of Mr. Maxwell, and his Conduct in conformity thereto, were designed to render the Clerks diſsatisfied with their places and get them to resign or leave, and that then a Weigher might be appointed who would enrich him at the expense of the depositors. Deponent believes that Mr. Maxwell persuaded Mr. Dimitry to omit the fulfilment of the directions of deponent contained in a written Order to the then Weigher of which the following is substantially a Copy, to wit: "U. S. B. Mint, New Orleans, January 14th 1839, Sir, I hereby direct that you take charge of, and keep, the following books and papers, to wit; the Weighing Books, the book in which is kept the account of bullion delivered by the Treasurer to the Melter and Refiner, the book in which is kept the account of standard ingots delivered by the Treasurer to the Coiner, the books containing the accounts of Bullion received by the Treasurer from the Melter and Refiner and Coiner in the state of Clippings or otherwise, also the blanks, to wit; the Receipts to Depositors for the groſs weight of bullion, and the Aſsayers Reports; the latter (the Aſsayers Reports) you will hand over to the other Clerk when warrants are issued, and you will furnish a Copy of the Assayers Reports to the Melter and Refiner on delivering him bullion.

Yr. &c. David Bradford, Supt. To William E. Spofford Esqr. Weigh-Master & Clerk B. Mint N. O. Delivered the orig.l of which the above is a Copy, on its date, to Mr. Spofford. David Bradford. vid. over.

In addition to the within the Weigh-Master will on delivering bullion to the M & R, exhibit the Assayers Report so that the entry in his book and that of the M & R, may be made to correspond." Deponent believes that Mr. Maxwell caused the non observance of the foregoing order, first by his directions to the Treasurers Clerk, with what he, Mr. Maxwell was to be charged, written in pencil and on file, and in the next place, by his, Mr. Maxwells, representing to Mr. Dimitry, that they would not disagree, and that the directions in said order were not requisite (which had they been observed would have obviated all difficulty such as the Damian Casas deposite has produced), with an evil design of producing confusion, disobedience, carelessness and difficulties, so as to effect the getting a Clerk who would suit his dishonest views. Deponent believes that in March 1838, when the first deposites were received in this Branch Mint, Mr. Maxwell never said any thing to deponent about its being requisite to keep a weigh-book of the deliveries of bullion by the Treasurer to the Melter and Refiner; deponent never that he recollects prior to January 1839 saw the Melter and Refiner produce and enter on his Weigh-book the weight of bullion by him received from the Treasurer as is required by the instructions received from the Director at this Branch Mint on the 11th June 1838, and therefore deponent does not believe that Mr. Maxwell faithfully fulfilled his duty and the directions of the Director, he not having instructed the Clerks of the Treasurer in their duties.